

Remarks

The Office Action dated November 30, 2007 has been carefully reviewed and the foregoing amendment has been made in consequence thereof.

Claims 5-19 and 25-28 are now pending in this application. Claims 13-16, 27 and 28 were withdrawn from consideration by the examiner. Claims 5-12, 17-19, 25 and 26 stand rejected.

The rejection of Claims 5-12, 17-19, 25 and 26 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, is respectfully traversed.

Independent Claim 9 has been amended to recite "a base grid disposed underneath said pressure vessel and spaced vertically above said floor of said containment vessel to define a sump therebetween, wherein a vertical axis of said reactor pressure vessel intersects said base grid."

Independent Claim 17 has been amended to recite "a base grid having a top plate and a bottom plate, said base grid disposed underneath said reactor pressure vessel, and spaced vertically above said floor of said containment vessel to define a sump therebetween, wherein a vertical axis of said reactor pressure vessel intersects said base grid."

Applicants traverse the suggestion at page 3 of the Office Action that the claims contain subject matter not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the art that the inventors had possession of the claimed invention. Also, Applicants traverse the suggestion at page 3 of the Office Action that the claims contain subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to enable one skilled in the art to make and/or use the invention.

Applicants respectfully submit that Figure 1 clearly shows core catcher 80 positioned beneath pressure vessel 12 and that the vertical axis of vessel 12 intersects core catcher 80. Paragraph 14 describes that "[c]ore catcher 80 is positioned proximate a basemat 82 of PCV 22 in a lower region of drywell 24." As described in paragraph 10, wall 28 extends vertically from basemat 82 and separates drywell 24 from suppression pool 30. Figure 1 clearly shows that core catcher 80 is positioned between basemat 82 and pressure vessel within drywell 24 bounded by wall 28. Paragraph 15 describes "[f]igure 2 is a schematic side view of one embodiment of core catcher 80. Core catcher 80 includes a base grid 84 disposed below the pressure vessel 12 and spaced vertically above basemat 82 of PCV 22 to define a gap or sump 86 therebetween. Drywell wall 28 laterally bounds base grid 84 and sump 86." Figure 2 clearly shows base grid 84 positioned vertically above basemat 82 within drywell 24 and bounded by wall 28. Because Figure 1 shows core catcher 80 positioned underneath pressure vessel, Applicants submit that Figure 1 inherently shows base grid 84 positioned underneath pressure vessel 12 wherein the vertical axis of the reactor pressure vessel intersects the base grid. Further, Applicants submit that one skilled in the art reading the application, including the figures, would understand that that Figure 2 shows base grid 84, which is an element of core catcher 80, positioned underneath pressure vessel 12 where the vertical axis of the reactor pressure vessel intersects the base grid.

Further, the Office Action, at page 2, admits that "the vertical axis of pressure vessel 16 is aligned/coincident with the vertical axis of core catcher 80." Therefore, Applicants submit that one skilled in the art knows that the vertical axis of the pressure vessel intersects the core catcher and the base grid. Accordingly, Applicants submit that Claims 5-12, 17-19, 25 and 26 and the specification, including the figures, meet all the requirements of Section 112, first paragraph.

Specifically, Applicants submit that the specification contains a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable one skilled in the art to make and use the invention.

For the reasons set forth above, Applicants respectfully request that the Section 112, first paragraph, rejection of Claims 5-12, 17-19, 25 and 26 be withdrawn.

The rejection of Claims 5-12, 17-19, 25 and 26 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, is respectfully traversed.

Applicants submit that at least for the reasons set forth above, the claims are consistent with the specification, including the figures, in regard to the position of base grid 84 relative to the pressure vessel. Accordingly, Applicants submit that the present claims are definite and particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicants regard as their invention.

For the reasons set forth above, Applicants respectfully request that the Section 112, second paragraph, rejection of Claims 5-12, 17-19, 25 and 26 be withdrawn.

The objection to the drawings under 37 CFR 1.83(a) is respectfully traversed.

Applicants submit that at least for the reasons set forth above, the drawings show every feature of the invention specified in the claims. Particularly, Applicants submit that the drawings show that base grid 84 is disposed underneath pressure vessel 12 and spaced vertically above floor 82 of containment vessel 22, wherein the vertical axis of reactor pressure vessel 12 intersects base grid 84.

For the reasons set forth above, Applicants respectfully request that the Rule 1.83(a) objection to the drawings be withdrawn.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, all the claims now active in this application are believed to be in condition for allowance. Favorable action is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



Michael Tersillo
Registration No. 42,180
ARMSTRONG TEASDALE LLP
One Metropolitan Square, Suite 2600
St. Louis, Missouri 63102-2740
(314) 621-5070